

CLAIMS

1. A method of making a helmet comprising the steps of cutting a plurality of substantially rectangular blanks from a sheet of fabric, making cuts in each blank to 5 form a crown portion and lobe portions therefrom, arranging a stack of said sheets into a helmet preform such that the lobe portions of any blank partially overlap adjacent lobe portions of the same blank, and molding the helmet from the preform.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the sheet of fabric has previously been 10 impregnated with resin.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the resin is phenolic resin.
4. A method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the rectangular blanks are 15 substantially square.
5. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the step of making cuts comprises forming only one cut extending inwardly from each side of each blank, thus forming only four lobe portions from the blank.
6. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the cuts in each blank are 20 curved.
7. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the cuts start at a position 25 on each side of the blank which divides the side into two fractions of between 0.3/0.7 and 0.45/0.55.
8. A method according to claim 7, wherein each cut then follows an arc of a circle towards that other side of the blank to which the cut is already closest.
9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the cuts do not extend further than any 30 perpendicular bisector of any side of the blank.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein each cut terminates at the first perpendicular bisector reached.
11. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the arranging step 5 comprises pushing the stack of blanks into a substantially hemispherical cavity.
12. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the centers of the blanks in the stack are aligned and there is an angular offset between adjacent blanks.
- 10 13. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the blanks are of more than one size.
14. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the blanks have a thickness between 0.3 and 1 mm.
- 15 15. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the molding step involves the application of heat as well as pressure.
16. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the molded helmet is 20 trimmed in order to form a helmet with a rim that lies substantially in one plane.
17. A helmet formed from a stack of fibrous blanks impregnated with resin, each blank comprising a trimmed rectangle and each blank having four curved cuts extending inwardly, one from each side of the rectangle.